

# BULLETIN

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### HINTS FOR BIRD STUDY

*By BELLE WILLIAMS, Secretary*

The object of this bulletin is to provide a few simple, practical hints for those who wish to study the birds, or teach bird study. The number of adult bird students is growing larger each year. Bird study appeals to people of all ages. It provides knowledge which is both useful and necessary, and which adds a joy to life.

Bird study is being taught in a larger number of schools each term. Educators are beginning to realize that a knowledge of the economic value of birds and the desire to protect them should be a part of the training in good citizenship of every boy and girl.

Bird study can be easily correlated with other studies and thus will not require extra time. It can be made the basis for lessons in language and composition, drawing and color work. In the more advanced classes it can be correlated with the study of agriculture by teaching the relation which birds bear to crops.



## SUGGESTIONS FOR INDOOR WORK

1. Use charts and colored pictures. Devote a few minutes each week to drill in these.

2. Organize Junior Audubon Classes. See National Association of Audubon Societies' Special Leaflet No. 22.

3. Start an Audubon Library or add bird books to your school library. Encourage pupils to read and consult these.

4. Keep a daily record of birds seen or heard.

5. Observe Bird and Arbor Day. For program, have a talk made by some bird protectionist; read parts of the State Game Laws; read a sketch of the life of John James Audubon. One Friday afternoon during the school year should be devoted to this.

6. Bird Booklets. Children may make attractive booklets by writing descriptions of the birds studied. Illustrate with colored drawings of birds or colored bird pictures. Use suitable covers.

7. Scrapbooks. School scrapbooks may be made from newspaper clippings on birds, articles, poems, stories and songs. Illustrate with colored bird pictures.

8. Bird Calendars. Children are interested in making, either individual calendars, or one large one for the school. Use name of birds studied with a few observations about each. Illustrate with colored pictures:

Name of bird; when seen; all the year round; in summer; in winter; date when first seen; date when leaving; where seen; time and place of nesting; food.

9. Food Charts. These may be made from observations made by children. Arrange as follows: Name of bird; kind of food eaten; food where found; food given young birds; economic value of food eaten. Illustrate with colored pictures of birds.

10. Sketch simple topography of bird on blackboard, and teach children to name parts of bird's body. Very helpful in teaching children to describe birds seen in the field and also assists accuracy of observation. See model used in Reed's "Bird Guide" or Chapman's "Handbook of Birds."

11. Nests. In fall when birds have left nests, collect nests and bring into school room. Study them and note difference in construction by different species.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR OUTDOOR WORK

Early morning or late afternoon is the best time to study birds. The best place is where there are trees or shrubs, especially near water. Keep the sun at your back and be as quiet as possible.

There should be a good manual for identifying birds in every school library. Opera or field glasses are a great help. For older pupils note books in which to record observations are desirable. Make field trips whenever possible.

1. Begin to study the commonest birds around you. Notice size and where seen.

2. Find out if birds are nesting on your home grounds. If not, why not?

3. Notice where birds are most abundant: In air, near water, on the ground, or in bushes.

4. Observe what birds eat in winter; in summer. Learn names of trees and shrubs on which you see birds feeding.

5. At what time of day are most birds seen? When do birds sing most? Where do birds sleep?

6. Which birds hop, and which walk?

7. Notice difference in appearance of male and female of same species.

8. Are there any birds about at night? What are they doing?



9. Find out from older persons if there are as many birds as there used to be. If not, why not?
10. Do all in your power to protect nesting birds and their eggs. Why?
11. Keep a daily record of the birds about you.
12. Make a collection of insects and weed seed eaten by birds.
13. Encourage the making of bird boxes and drinking fountains.
14. Lead children to make individual observations. One discovery made by the child himself is of more value than any number of facts taken from books.

Some of the best teachers of bird study require the children in the first grade to know, to really "feel acquainted" with only four birds. Six are required in the second grade, eight in the third, and so on.

In the higher grades emphasize the usefulness of birds to farmers. All bird study should lead up to a desire to protect the birds and with the wise teacher it will have that effect.

Dr. W. T. Hornaday, the foremost wild life protectionist in this country, says, that children should be taught in the imperative mood that it is **WRONG** to disturb breeding birds or rob birds' nests, and that it is, not only right, but their duty to prevent the destruction of useful wild life, and to help in every possible way in its preservation. The use of sling shots, air guns, rifles and shot guns in the hands of boys should be discouraged.

## MATERIAL USEFUL IN BIRD STUDY

Very fine colored Audubon Charts may be bought at \$1.50 each from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Boston, Mass.

At the cost of only a few cents each, teachers can make very attractive and useful charts by cutting out colored bird pictures, and pasting them on cardboard. Use small paint brush and a bottle of black or white Show Card ink for printing the descriptive matter.

Colored Pictures. Perry Picture Co., Malden, Mass. Price, each, 2 cts.  
A. W. Mumford Pub., Chicago, Ill. Price, each, 2 cts.

Paint Brush Nos. 3 or 4. Price, 10 cts.

Carter's Show Card Colors, Black or white. Price, 15 cts.

Box Best Paste. Price, 5 cts.

Hard Lead Pencil for ruling. Price, 10 cts.

One large and one small ruler.

White Cardboard 22x28. Price, per sheet, 5 cts.

Grey, Brown or Black Cardboard, 22x28. Price, per sheet, 15 cts.

Grey, Brown or Black Cardboard, 30x40. Price, per sheet, 25 cts.

Small colored bird pictures suitable for booklets or scrapbooks. Double-day, Page & Co., Garden City, L. I., N. Y. Price, 1c. each.

List of Education Charts which can be made at the cost of a few cents each:

Birds found in the School Neighborhood.

Birds that eat Mosquitoes.

Birds that eat the Army Worm.

Birds that feed on the Cotton Boll Weevil.

Hawks and Owls and the good they do.

Wood Peckers and how they protect the Trees.

Economic value of the Bobwhite, Dove and Meadowlark.

List of Causes of Decrease of Bird Life.

## PUBLICATIONS

For facts to be used in making charts apply to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for the following bulletins:

Farmers' Bulletin No. 513—Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard.



Farmers' Bulletin No. 506—Food of Some Well Known Birds of Forest, Farm and Garden.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 54—Some Common Birds.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 609—Bird Houses and How to Build Them.

Biological Survey Circular, No. 37—Birds Useful in the War against the Cotton Boll Weevil. Write for map showing range of the boll weevil.

Biological Survey Bulletin, No. 37—Food of the Woodpeckers of the United States.

Biological Survey Circular, No. 61—Hawks and Owls.

Biological Survey Circular, No. 87—National Reservations for the Protection of Wild Life.

Yearbook Separate, No. 590—Our Meadowlarks and Their Relation to Agriculture.

All these publications are free except No. 513. This is very valuable as it is illustrated with colored bird pictures. Price, 15 cents. Stamps not accepted.

## BOOKS

The best manual for identification is Reed's "Land Bird Guide." This book shows every bird in color, and is pocket size. Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, L. I., N. Y. Price, 75 cents. Postage, 5 cents.

Every School Library should contain the following books:

Birds of South Carolina, by Arthur T. Wayne. Published by the Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C. Price, \$3.25.

First Book of Birds, by Olive Thorne Miller. Houghton, Mifflin Pub. Co., Boston, Mass. Price, 60 cents.

Second Book of Birds, by Olive Thorne Miller. Houghton, Mifflin Pub. Co., Boston, Mass. Price, \$1.00.

Bird World, by Stickney & Hoffman. Ginn & Co., Boston, Mass.

Citizen Bird, by Mabel Osgood Wright. Macmillan & Co., New York. Price, \$1.50.

Gray Lady and the Birds, by Mabel Osgood Wright. Macmillan & Co., New York. Price, \$1.75.

Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America, by Frank M. Chapman. D. Appleton & Co., New York. Price, \$3.75.

Educational leaflets, bird books and field glasses. Price list sent on request. National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, New York.

MAGAZINES: Bird-Lore. Very fine. D. Appleton & Co., New York. price, per year, \$1.00.

Blue-Bird. Blue-Bird, No. 4 West 7th Street, Cincinnati, O. Price, per year, 50 cents.

State Game Laws. Chief Game Warden, Columbia, S. C.

These hints have been borrowed from many sources, and are presented with the hope of encouraging bird study in schools, clubs, and by individuals. They may be adapted and simplified to suit conditions. For many valuable suggestions, special thanks are due Alice Hall Walter, head of the department of Bird Study at the Biological Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, L. I.; Abby P. Churchill, State Normal School, Fitchburg, Mass., and Gretchen L. Libbey, Educational Assistant to the California Game and Fish Commission.

All persons interested in birds or bird study are invited to correspond freely with the Secretary of the Audubon Society. This leaflet may be obtained from the Secretary, Columbia, S. C.

S. C. STATE LIBRARY